

documentation of this problem. I won't go into a lot of detail unless somebody has some questions. There is a grandfather clause in there permitting individuals that now have bears and large cats to keep those until the animal dies, simply because there would have been some value that the state would have had to reimburse them if we were to take them away now. So there is a grandfather clause for animals they have existing. The last major thing the committee amendments do is add the emergency clause to the bill and they exempt from the regulation any prohibition in zoos, parks, refuges, wild life areas, circuses and animal exhibits. The committee amendments are, again, a major portion of the bill and if anybody has any question, I would be glad to answer, otherwise I would urge your adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rupp, on the bill.

SENATOR RUPP: Very briefly. Once again, it started, this is just a clean-up bill with some language changes for Game and Parks, but the Lancaster County Sheriff's department was very concerned about a problem they have. It all began a few years ago with a three-year-old boy being mauled severely by a pet cougar on the outskirts of Lincoln. And in checking the records, and so forth, they decided there were probably from 12 to 25 large cats being held in captivity just in Lincoln and the Lincoln area. It could be quite a problem. In some areas they have no handle on it because they felt that the existing statutes had no prohibition against keeping large cats and bears in captivity. That is the main thing that the bill does. There are some secondary changes in just simply spelling out what animals are needed for a permit and what animals are not or simply prohibited from being held in captivity. I would urge your advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Rupp, I remember in committee when